

West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council  
Quarterly Meeting  
Charleston House Holiday Inn, Charleston, WV  
January 26, 2010

**Members Present:** Christy Black, Marcus Canaday, Joyce Church, Ron Dean, Jeannie Elkins, Virginia Gattlieb, Sandy Haberbosch, Clarice Hausch, Amber Hinkle, Janice Holland, Betty Holliday, Ann Hubbs, Carlos Lucero, M.D., Jane McCallister, Julie McClanahan, Pat Moss, Libby Nester, Richard Perry, Clark Queen, Jerry Ramsey, Karen Ruddell, LuAnn Summers, and Pat Winston.

**Members Absent:** Bob Cain, Richard Covert, Stephanie Jackson, Clint Martin, Karen Robinson, and John David Smith.

**Guests:** Nancy Ellison, Concord University – attending for John David Smith; Kevin Smith, People First WV; James McClain, People First WV; Christina Smith, Arc WV; Annette Carey, WV Department of Education; Ruth Ann King, WV Department of Education.

**Staff Present:** Steve Wiseman, Jim Cremeans, and Tiffany Wiseman.

**Staff Absent:** Linda Higgs.

**Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements**

Jeannie called the meeting to order and welcomed all Members. She announced Marcus Canaday, who has participated in many initiatives concerning people with developmental and other disabilities, will be the Council Representative for Bureau for Medical Services. Richard Perry announced he has a new job working with mail. He enjoys the work and the people he works with. Steve announced the resignation of Donald Thrailkill. Due to his physical condition, he will no longer be able to participate. He and his contribution to the Council will be missed. Steve also informed the Council Linda will not be attending the meeting as she is currently attending an SRV Workshop that uses a new format which we may want to use. Steve reminded Council Members about current and upcoming training opportunities. He also stated Members should contact the Council to make arrangements for the Council to pay for attendance of any Council sponsored training in lieu of using Council designated stipend funds.

### **Mission Statement Reminder**

Clark read the Council's Mission Statement.

### **Public Comments**

None.

### **Approval of October 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Jeannie asked Members to review the October 2009 Council Meeting Minutes to determine if any corrections need to be made.

**Ann moved the Minutes be approved as presented. Betty seconded. Motion carried.**

### **New Business**

#### **Election of Nominating Committee (Action Needed)**

Jeannie informed the Council Christy Black, Jerry Ramsey, and Jane McCallister volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. Since they were the only Members who volunteered, they made up the slate.

**Libby moved the Council accept the slate. Clark seconded. Motion carried. Christy, Jerry, and Jane abstained.**

### **Development of new 5 year State Plan**

Jim shared an overview of the activities used to develop the five year State Plan: workgroups, unmet needs surveys, public forums, Council findings, and public comment. The new State Plan, which will be submitted by August 15, 2011, directs the use of Council funds, selection of grants, and strategies to fulfill the Council mission. The "DD Act" mandates specific information to be included in the Plan as well as strategies to obtain that information. The Technical Assistance Institute to be held by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities this summer will provide beneficial and productive sessions related to State Plan development.

### **Other Business**

#### **MR/DD Waiver Update**

Pat Winston shared an overview of the upcoming proposed changes to the MR/DD Waiver. A self-directed component, which will be known as "Participant Directed Option", will be included. National advisors have been consulted in development of this option. Two options will be provided under the Participant Directed Option: Fiscal Intermediary and Agency of Choice. A Fiscal Intermediary will handle budgetary activities, but the participant will have control over services used, recruitment, hiring and terminating of staff, and setting schedules. Pat stated that

under the Agency of Choice option, participants will have a “co-employer” relationship. Pat explained the agency will be the primary employer and the participant will be the secondary employer. The participant will continue to have choice over the recruitment, hiring and terminating of staff, and setting schedules; but will do so under guidelines agreed to between the participant and agency.

Clarice asked what the difference between person centered services and the Agency of Choice option is. Pat explained the Agency of Choice option is a formalized process to ensure person centered services are provided. LuAnn asked how this will affect Community Rehabilitation Providers (CRPs) at DRS as some CRPs have been grandfathered in. Pat said she will need to get back to LuAnn on this issue.

Ann asked who will retain liability under the Participant Directed Option. Pat stated there have not been a lot of issues with liability nationally, but they are working with advisors to determine how to work it out.

Steve asked Pat to elaborate about changes that might affect families. Pat stated training codes such as community res hab, adult companion, res hab, etc. will be grouped into one training code called personal support service (PSS) code. Services will still be available but separate billing codes will not be utilized. Clarice said the PSS code was explained to be a provider code during the last APS conference call. Pat explained parents providing res hab will no longer be able to do so under the traditional Waiver model without becoming an employee of the agency and paying taxes. If parents providing res hab do not want to become agency employees, they must do so under the Agency of Choice or Participant Directed Option.

Jeannie asked how the Participant Directed Option will affect participants using job supports. Pat said this is still being worked out.

Steve asked how long it will take after a person chooses to use the Participant Directed Option to be active? Pat stated the timeline has yet to be determined. A formal plan of transition will need to be submitted to and approved by CMS.

Jeannie asked if paperwork will change under the Participant Directed Option. Pat said the paperwork will be reduced tremendously.

Sandy asked if participants will be able to take staff with them when traveling out of the State. Pat said services must be provided locally under the current Policy, but will be looked at.

Pat shared the following contacts and phone numbers for further questions: Jon Sassi, 304-558-3813; Pat Winston, 304-558-3296, main office line, 304-558-0627.

Steve stated that the Department assured Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that the MR/DD Waiver Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Council was a primary forum to advise on the development of the Waiver application. It has not met in months, and has not made an impact on addressing issues important to individuals, families, and providers.

Pat stated a meeting has been tentatively planned for March to explain the Participant Directed Option to participants, parents, and other interested parties.

Members voiced several concerns about the possible Waiver changes. Ann explained her employer would not permit her to have paid outside employment. Therefore, she cannot become an employee under the traditional model to receive services. Pat explained parents do not have to become employees of the agency under the traditional model unless they want to provide res hab services and they choose not to use the Participant Directed Option or Agency of Choice option.

Joyce stated it appears parents will be forced to learn a new service and new paperwork during time they already do not have. Pat replied that the new options are not as complicated as they may sound and are intended to lessen paperwork and time involvement.

### **Staff Updates and Upcoming Events for 2010**

Due to time constraints, Council Staff did not share an update of Council Staff Activities. Steve gave an overview of the 2010 upcoming events and reminded Members they can find this information on a handout in their packets as well as the WVDDC Web site.

### **Presentation**

#### **Public TV Video**

The Members were shown a half hour video of an interview of Steve by Melina Danko of WVU CED December 2009. The interview was broadcasted periodically over the course of the following month. He provided information about the Council: how DD Councils came to be, how the Council receives

funding, and the Council's values, vision, mission, activities and projects. He also spoke on the devaluation of people with developmental disabilities which leads to segregation, isolation, and distancing.

## **Presentation**

### **Arc of WV, People First**

James McClain and Kevin Smith shared information about the People First of WV's mission, activities, and training. One such activity is the annual People First conference where adults with developmental disabilities learn how to become better self-advocates. Kevin stated participation has grown from about 75 participants at the 1992 conference to 242 participants at the 2009 conference. James explained people with developmental disabilities need to be aware of self-advocacy and how to stand up for their rights and needs.

People First of WV Members receive training and an 80 page toolkit/manual to teach them how to set up and maintain a People First chapter. For more information:

People First of WV on Yahoo Groups – [groups.yahoo.com/group/peoplefirstwv/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/peoplefirstwv/)

WebEx Network Conferencing capability to eliminate travel time

1-877-334-6581

Arc of WV Facebook page

People First of WV newsletter coming soon

## **Presentation**

### **COACH Training**

Ruth Ann King began the presentation by sharing information about their federally funded grant program called the "Deaf-Blind Project." Each year, through this Project, they complete a needs assessment. Overall, communication is of highest importance. Although some of the children use sign-language, most of the children need tactile communication devices. She thanked the Council for providing designated stipends so families can attend the "Families Weekend" hosted through the "Deaf-Blind Project."

Annette Carey elaborated on the needs assessment process. Another aspect of high importance is IEP development. Through the Project, three to four families are selected to participate in the Building Effective Student Teams (BEST) process. The BEST teams include the child, parents, and all professionals who teach and/or provide support to the child. After careful interview/assessment, training is developed for the Team. Afterward, observation and support in the classroom are provided to the Team. The process is repeated as needed.

The Choosing Outcomes and Accommodations for Children (COACH) method will now be incorporated into this project. This method is based on the assumption that all education, supports, and services will take place in the general education classroom. Therefore, IEP development focuses on supporting and teaching the child in a fully inclusive setting.

The COACH process begins with a broad brainstorming session of (long-term) dreams and goals. Then, the team members narrow the focus and determine short-term goals to attain the initially selected dreams and outcomes. The goals are then prioritized by the family and five goals are selected. Annette explained, when too many goals are selected, the chances of a meaningful impact are lessened.

During step two, additional learning outcomes are selected. These outcomes do not replace goals determined by parents; they are in addition to and selected by teachers.

During step three, Annette explained, a chart is utilized to address the educational program components and determine needed supports and accommodations. On the left of the chart, goals and outcomes are listed. The child's daily schedule (e.g., home room, science, math, lunch, English, history) are listed. All teachers and therapists work together to develop goals for each class that will work to attain the broader chosen goals.

Annette stated the focus of the COACH training and process is to help teams to work together and think in a non-judgmental manner.

Tiffany expressed that she worked with a child who is deaf-blind for two years. She stated the COACH method would be an invaluable process to develop his IEP and direct goals and services.

Several Members expressed that this COACH approach would be ideal for students with severe disabilities who are not deaf-blind as well.

### **Feedback Forms**

Jeannie requested all present to complete and turn in the Meeting Feedback Forms.

**Adjournment:** By acclamation.

Next Meeting: April 27, 2010, Country Inn and Suites, Beckley, WV.

